

Amendments to the Claims :

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-16 (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A clamping device for a shoelace, comprising:
a base having an inner surface defining a cavity for receiving the shoelace and an upper transverse edge;
a movable slider ~~partially~~ received in the cavity of the base, the slider movable between a first clamping position wherein the shoelace is captured between the slider and the inner surface of the base and a second, non-clamping position wherein the shoelace may be drawn through the cavity;
a biasing structure for urging the slider towards the clamping position; and
a protrusion extending from the slider, and the protrusion movable between a first position wherein the slider is free to move to the clamping position and a second position wherein the protrusion extends over the upper transverse edge of engageable with the base for selectively maintaining the slider in the non-clamping position such that movement of the shoelace in a shoelace pulling direction causes the protrusion to move from the second position to the first position.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The clamping device of claim 17 ~~18~~ wherein the biasing structure includes a helical compression spring mounted between the base and the slider.

20. (Previously Presented) The clamping device of claim 17 wherein the inner surface of the base includes a cogged portion for engagement with the shoelace with the slider in the clamping position.

21. (Previously Presented) The clamping device of claim 17 wherein the slider includes an outer surface having a cogged portion, the cogged portion of the outer surface of the slider engaging the shoelace with the slider in the clamping position.

22. (Previously Presented) The clamping device of claim 17 wherein the base includes a baseplate for attaching the clamping device to a shoe.

23. (Previously Presented) The clamping device of claim 17 wherein the slider includes a lever for facilitating the movement of slider from the clamping position to the non-clamping position.

24. (Currently Amended) A clamping device for a shoelace, comprising:
a base defining a cavity and having a first cogged surface, and a second cogged surface, surfaces and an upper transverse edge;
a movable slider partially received in the cavity of the base and having first and second cogged surfaces, the slider movable between a first clamping position and a second, non-clamping position;
a biasing structure for urging the slider towards the clamping position; and
a protrusion extending from the slider, the protrusion movable between a first position wherein the slider is free to move to the clamping position and a second position wherein the protrusion extends over the upper transverse edge of the base for selectively maintaining the slider in the non-clamping position such that movement of the shoelace in a shoelace pulling direction causes the protrusion to move from the second position to the first position;

wherein:

the first cogged surface of the slider and the first cogged surface of the base define a first passageway for receiving a first portion of the shoelace ~~therethrough~~ therethrough;

the second cogged surface of the slider and the second cogged surface of the base define a second passageway for receiving a second portion of the shoelace ~~therethrough~~ therethrough;

the first portion of the shoelace is clamped within the first passageway with the slider in the clamping position; and

the second portion of the shoelace is clamped within the second passageway with the slider in the clamping position.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously Presented) The clamping device of claim 24 wherein the base includes a baseplate for attaching the clamping device to a shoe.

28. (Currently Amended) The clamping device of claim 24 wherein the slider includes a lever for facilitating the movement of slider from the clamping position to the non-clamping position.;

29. (Currently Amended) A shoe, comprising:

a shoelace for maintaining the shoe on a foot of a wearer, the shoelace having first and second ends; and

a clamping device for securing the shoelace at a used desired location, the clamping device including:

a base having an inner surface defining a cavity for receiving the shoelace and an upper transverse edge;

a movable slider ~~partially~~ partially received in the cavity of the base, the slider movable between a first clamping position wherein the shoelace is captured between

the slider and the inner surface of the base and a second, non-clamping position wherein the shoelace may be drawn through the cavity;

a biasing structure for urging the slider towards the clamping position; and

a protrusion extending from the slider, the protrusion movable between a first position wherein the slider is free to move to the clamping position and a second position wherein the protrusion extends over the upper transverse edge of the base for selectively maintaining the slider in the non-clamping position such that movement of the shoelace in a shoelace pulling direction causes the protrusion to move from the second position to the first position and engageable with the base for selectively maintaining the slider in the non-clamping position.

30. (Previously Presented) The shoe of claim 29 wherein first and second ends of the shoelace are interconnected to define a loop so as to permit handling of the shoelace with a single finger.

31. (Previously Presented) The shoe of claim 30 further comprising a handle overlapping the first and second ends of the shoelace.

32. (Previously Presented) The shoe of claim 31 further comprising a body and an elastic band operatively connected to the body and the handle, the elastic band urging the shoelace and the handle toward the body.

33. (Previously Presented) The shoe of claim 32 further comprising a band guide for receiving the elastic band and guiding the movement thereof.

34. (Previously Presented) The shoe of claim 33 wherein the body includes a receiving channel affixed thereto and wherein the elastic band is guided through the receiving channel.

35. (Previously Presented) The shoe of claim 29 further comprising a tongue and wherein the base include a baseplate operatively connected to the tongue.

36. (Previously Presented) The shoe of claim 29 wherein the base includes a clip for operatively connecting the clamping device to the tongue.